

Rising to your Next Level of Leadership

8. Be aware of seasons shifting

- There is a time lag between the call and the commission. Do you know when your commission is?
- Do you know when your time of preparation has come to an end?
- Are you ready to be presented to kings?
- Do you understand the times and seasons in your life?
- When you are doing marathons what happens if you run the race before the season of preparation has finished?

The king talked with them. What will you say when power centres in your domain speak to you? This should be dealt with in the season of preparation. The mistake many make is they wait for the season to shift before they think about such things. There is a link between my preparation in a specific area and doors opening in that area.

²⁰ In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom.

9. Develop your competency and expertise

- What are your high leverage areas?
 - What is your work in this life?
 - For what are you the go to person?
 - What comes easily to you but is difficult for many?
 - What can you wake up to do without complaining at 2am?
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- In those areas of expertise what can you do to learn more and sharpen yourself?
 - We have access to the wisdom of God and His anointing therefore we can be better.
 - God does not just anoint us to do “spiritual things”.

10. Develop grit.

Grit is remaining committed to long-term goals despite the obstacles. Daniel was in Babylon for 60 years. He didn't give up.

²¹ And Daniel remained there until the first year of King Cyrus.

2 In the second year of his reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; his mind was troubled and he could not sleep.

11. Find out what is troubling the kings in your life.

The principle here is identifying the problems and presenting solutions. People buy from you when you are solving their problems.

Can you restate the real problem? In your family, company, community and nation.

How you diagnose something determines the solution.

The King did not just want the answer but wanted someone who knew his problem.

In managing upward one of the strategies is finding out what stresses your boss and seeking to help them.

Many people want to grow as leaders but are unaware of what is troubling the leaders above them. This is true in the church. Sometimes you get to know what's troubling the king by asking them. Some people like to mother everyone and they assume they know what's troubling them.

² So the king summoned the magicians, enchanters, sorcerers and astrologers^[d] to tell him what he had dreamed. When they came in and stood before the king, ³ he said to them, "I have had a dream that troubles me and I want to know what it means.^[e]"

⁴ Then the astrologers answered the king,^[f] "May the king live forever! Tell your servants the dream, and we will interpret it."

⁵ The king replied to the astrologers, "This is what I have firmly decided: If you do not tell me what my dream was and interpret it, I will have you cut into pieces and your houses turned into piles of rubble. ⁶ But if you tell me the dream and explain it, you will receive from me gifts and rewards and great honour. So tell me the dream and interpret it for me."

⁷ Once more they replied, "Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will interpret it."

⁸ Then the king answered, "I am certain that you are trying to gain time, because you realize that this is what I have firmly decided: ⁹ If you do not tell me the dream, there is only one penalty for you. You have conspired to tell me misleading and wicked things, hoping the situation will change. So then, tell me the dream, and I will know that you can interpret it for me."

12. Embrace subsequent opportunities

- The king returned to people he was familiar with despite all he had experienced previously with Daniel.
- The king's trust in his magicians had evidently been eroded, to a point where he was willing to execute demonically inspired counsel.

- When kings see your excellence and the spirit of wisdom upon your life, this is a precursor to the uprooting of demonic counsel and the embracing of wisdom from above. But they only do it when they have been exposed to the alternative.
- We must trust god with subsequent opportunities by which to influence.
- Find out where the king's advisors have failed.
- Don't settle for the once off, make it sustained influence.
- What are the relationships for you to rebuild?

¹⁰ The astrologers answered the king, "There is no one on earth who can do what the king asks! No king, however great and mighty, has ever asked such a thing of any magician or enchanter or astrologer. ¹¹ What the king asks is too difficult. No one can reveal it to the king except the gods, and they do not live among humans."

¹² This made the king so angry and furious that he ordered the execution of all the wise men of Babylon. ¹³ So the decree was issued to put the wise men to death, and men were sent to look for Daniel and his friends to put them to death.

¹⁴ When Arioch, the commander of the king's guard, had gone out to put to death the wise men of Babylon, Daniel spoke to him with wisdom and tact. ¹⁵ He asked the king's officer, "Why did the king issue such a harsh decree?" Arioch then explained the matter to Daniel. ¹⁶ At this, Daniel went in to the king and asked for time, so that he might interpret the dream for him.

13. Build teams around your goals

- Team work is a key part of this.
- Daniel applied this to corporate prayer.
- Enrol others for counsel and prayer.
- Teamwork is essential.

¹⁷ Then Daniel returned to his house and explained the matter to his friends Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. ¹⁸ He urged them to plead for mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that he and his friends might not be executed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. ¹⁹ During the night the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision. Then Daniel praised the God of heaven ²⁰ and said:

14. Be full of praise and worship

Keep God in His position in your life.

Daniel never became bigger than God.

He was a worshiping warrior who recognised how BIG God was.

“Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are his.

²¹ He changes times and seasons; he deposes kings and raises up others.

He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning.

²² He reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what lies in darkness,

and light dwells with him.²³ I thank and praise you, God of my ancestors:

You have given me wisdom and power, you have made known to me what we asked of you, you have made known to us the dream of the king.”

15. Be full of grace and mercy to your competitors and enemies.

They are no competition to you.

Your struggle is not against them but powers and principalities.

Don't disqualify yourself by fighting them.

This was all risky for Daniel.

In all of this he gave God the glory.

²⁴ Then Daniel went to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to execute the wise men of Babylon, and said to him, “Do not execute the wise men of Babylon. Take me to the king, and I will interpret his dream for him.”²⁵ Arioch took Daniel to the king at once and said, “I have found a man among the exiles from Judah who can tell the king what his dream means.” ²⁶The king asked Daniel (also called Belteshazzar), “Are you able to tell me what I saw in my dream and interpret it?”²⁷ Daniel replied, “No wise man, enchanter, magician or diviner can explain to the king the mystery he has asked about, ²⁸but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries. He has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in days to come. Your dream and the visions that passed through your mind as you were lying in bed are these: